

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration in light of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-30 are pending; Claims 21-26 are canceled; and Claims 27-30 are presently amended. Claims 1-20 were previously cancelled. No new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 27-30 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over Claims 1-8 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,389,222 in view of Kashiwagi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,526,226); Claims 21-23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; and Claims 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kim et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,499) in view of Kashiwagi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,526,226).

With regard to the rejection of Claims 27-30 for obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over Claims 1-8 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,389,222 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,526,226, that rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 27-30 have been amended herewith to patentably distinguish them from the claims of U.S. Pat. No. 6,389,222 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,526,226. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

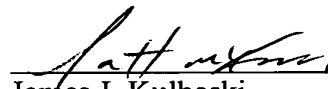
As for the rejection of Claims 21-23 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, that rejection is also respectfully traversed. Claims 21-23 have been canceled herewith, thereby rendering their rejection moot. Claim 27 has been amended to recite an information storage medium configured to have data recorded thereon and data reproduced therefrom by at least one of a recording and/or reproducing apparatus. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), that rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of Claims 21-26.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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